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Need TRICARE FOR LIFE? Time to sign up for Medicare Part B Approaching

If you did not enroll in Medicare Part B when you were first eligible at age 65, you may sign up during Medicare's General Enrollment Period. This period runs from January 1 through March 31 of each year. If you choose to enroll during this period, Medicare Part B coverage will begin on July 1, 2003.

You must elect to enroll in Medicare Part B in order to be eligible for TRICARE For Life benefits. For more information about enrolling in Medicare Part B, visit the Social Security Administration online at www.ssa.gov or call 001-800-772-1213. You may also contact your closest U.S. Embassy/Consulate Federal Benefit Unit for assistance.

Since Medicare does not pay for services rendered overseas, TFL in Europe is different than TFL in the U.S. For services payable by TRICARE but not Medicare (i.e. all overseas covered care) TRICARE will pay the same as if you were under age 65. You will be responsible for the TRICARE fiscal year deductible and cost shares, just as under the TRICARE Standard program. If you receive care from a civilian provider in the U.S., your provider will file claims with Medicare. Medicare will pay its portion, then automatically forward the claim to TRICARE for the remaining amount. TRICARE will send its payment directly to your provider. For more information about TRICARE For Life, interested persons may visit the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/tfl or call the

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Worldwide TRICARE Information Center toll-free at 001-877-DOD-LIFE (001-877-363-5433).

TRICARE For Life beneficiaries who need to update or verify their eligibility, or beneficiaries who have received an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) stating that they need to update their eligibility, should contact the nearest ID card facility for assistance. Information about DEERS records may be obtained at the DEERS Support Office at 001-800-538-9552. This office is open from 3 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Central European Time. TFL beneficiaries may also update their home addresses on the TRICARE web site at **www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress**.

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